

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-27 are subject to restriction and election requirement. Claims 10-27 have been withdrawn. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response To Restriction and Election, Claims 1-9 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed 07/14/2003, it was stated that the present patent application contains two distinct inventions related as product and process of use. As such, it has been required that an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits be made pursuant to 35 U.S.C. Section 121. Specifically, it has been required that an election be made between a first invention, Group I, recited in Claims 1-18, drawn to methods, and a second invention, Group II, recited in Claims 19-27, drawn to apparatus.

INVENTION ELECTION WITHOUT TRAVERSE

Group I, recited in Claims 1-18, is hereby elected without traverse. Further examination and reconsideration of the elected invention is respectfully requested.

Moreover, in the Office Action mailed 7/14/2003, it was stated that if the first Invention Group I, recited in Claims 1-18, was elected further election of species was required. As such, it has been required that an election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits be made pursuant to 35 U.S.C.

Section 121 if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Specifically, it has been required that an election be made from the following species: Species I to which Claims 1-9 are drawn, and Species II to which Claims 10-18 are drawn.

SPECIES ELECTION WITHOUT TRAVERSE

Species I to which Claims 1-9 are drawn is hereby elected without traverse. Claims 1-9 are readable thereon. Further examination and reconsideration of the elected invention is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

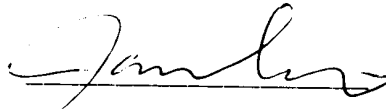
It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present patent application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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